

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02618 261350Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 EB-08 L-03 INR-07 /046 W
-----261357Z 124370 /44

R 260716Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2804
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2618

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, EINV, SY
SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT: FORD MOTOR COMPANY

REF: DAMASCUS 2297

1. MINECON IMADI TOLD EMBASSY COMMERCIAL OFFICER APRIL 23 THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH ARAB LEAGUE CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL KOUDMANI (D/G MAHJOUB WAS OUT OF TOWN) CURRENT SITUATION OF FORD WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE FORD INVESTMENT IN SYRIA. ACCORDING TO IMADI, THE BOYCOTT OFFICE'S POSITION IS THAT FORD MUST FIRST "FINALIZE" (READ "TERMINATE") ITS INVESTMENT IN ISRAEL AND THEN THE BOYCOTT OFFICE "WILL MAKE ALL EFFORTS" TO GET FORD REMOVED FROM BOYCOTT LIST.

2. IMADI OFFERED THIS COMMENT IN CONTEXT OF REPLYING TO SEVERAL BOYCOTT-RELATED QUESTIONS EARLIER RAISED BY AMBASSADOR (REFTEL). IMADI WAS READING FROM NOTES; IT WAS CLEAR HE WAS STATING CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE POSITION, BUT HE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT SARG WAS CONTESTING THAT POSITION. COMOFF ASKED IF THIS MEANT THAT SARG DECREE 428 MUST BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT INVESTMENT IN AN ARAB COUNTRY WAS NOT BY
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ITSELF SUFFICIENT TO REMOVE A COMPANY FROM THE BOYCOTT LIST; THE COMPANY MUST ALSO LIQUIDATE ITS INVESTMENT IN ISRAEL. IMADI REPLIED "YES".

3. COMMENT: IMADI'S STATEMENT IS THE CLEAREST INDICATION YET THAT SARG IS ACCEPTING THE BOYCOTT OFFICE'S NARROW INTERPRETATION OF DECREE 428 AND

THAT THE DECREE IS NOT WIDE ENOUGH FOR FORD TO SLIP
THROUGH WHILE RETAINING ITS INTEREST IN ISRAEL. BY
IMPLICATION AT LEAST, SARG SEEMS TO BE AGREEING WITH
CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE POSITION THAT FORD SALE OF
KNOCK-DOWN KITS TO ISRAEL DISTRIBUTOR DOES
CONSTITUTE AN "INVESTMENT" IN ISRAEL -- DESPITE FORD
DISCLAIMERS.
PELLETREAU

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 26-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: ETRD, EINV, SY, XF, AL, FORD MOTOR CO
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